

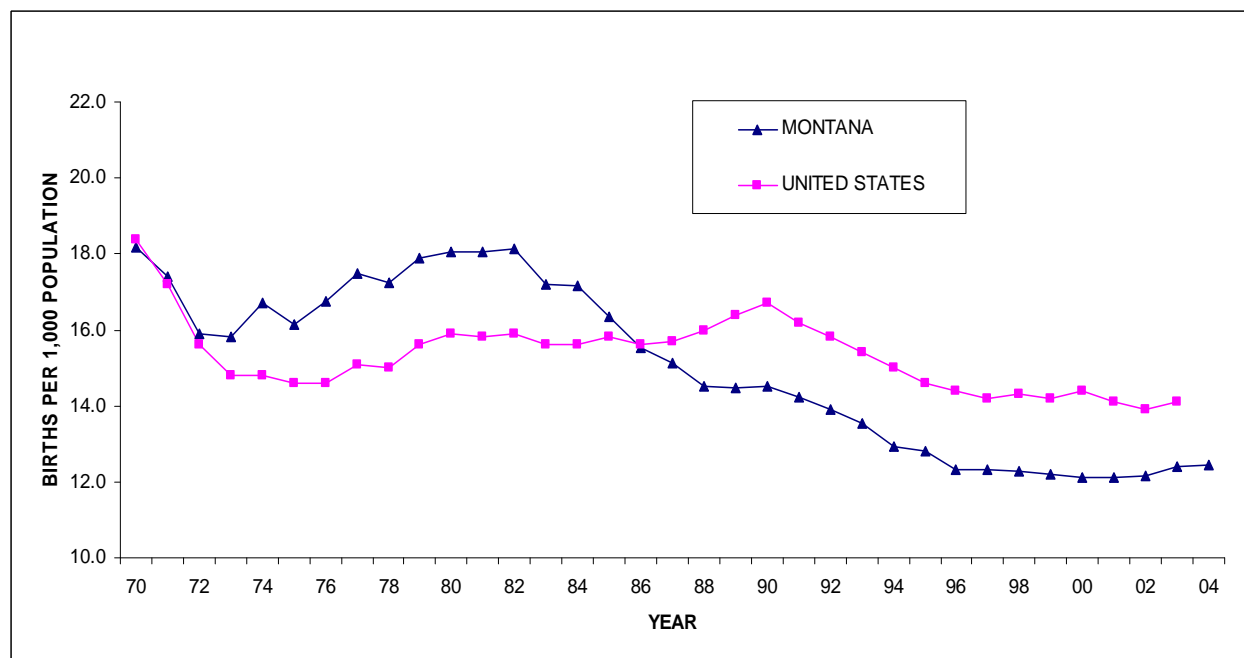
NATALITY

There were 11,514 babies born to Montana residents in 2004. **Table S-1** shows the frequency and rate of births occurring in Montana (regardless of place of residence) at five-year intervals from 1910 to 1945 and those to all Montana residents (regardless of place of occurrence) each year since 1946.

For the most part, the Montana birth rate has been in long-term decline since the early 1980s. However, the frequency of births to Montana residents increased slightly in 2000, 2001 and 2002, and the birth rate appears to have stabilized in those years at 12.1 per 1,000 population. In 2003 and 2004 the number of births increased again and the rate increased to 12.4 per 1,000 population. These have been the first substantial increases since 1982. However, it is probably still too soon to identify this as a lasting change in trend. **Figure 6** below compares the resident birth rates for Montana and the U.S. for the last 35 years.

Figure 6

RESIDENT BIRTH RATES MONTANA AND THE UNITED STATES, 1970-2004



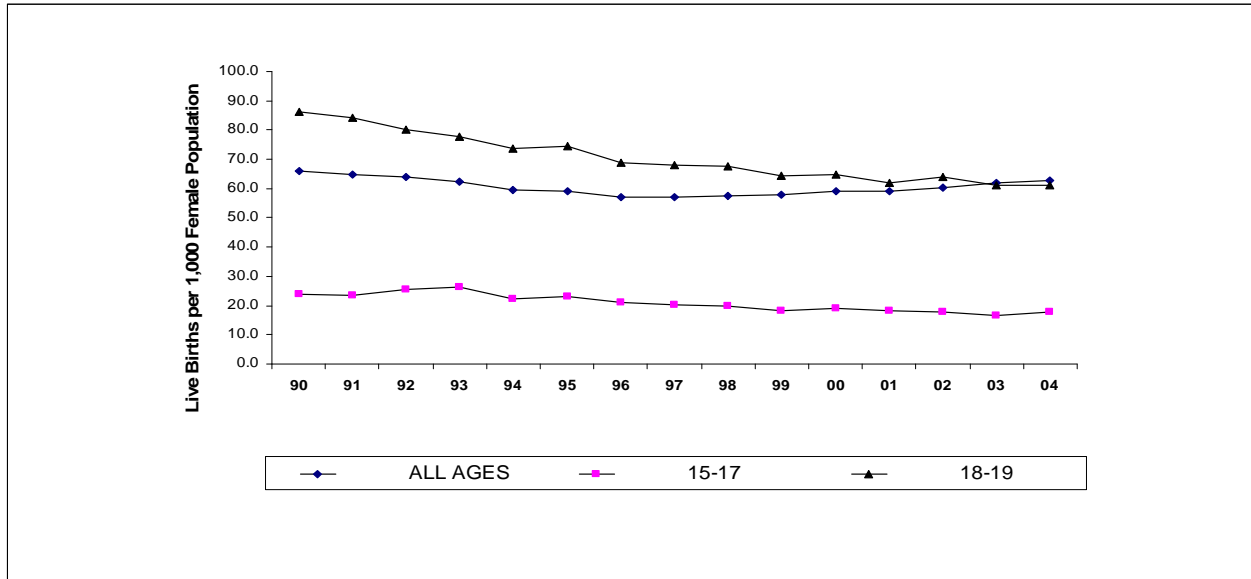
While the Montana rate exceeded the U.S. rate from 1971 to 1985, it began to decline in the early 1980's, fell below the U.S. rate in the mid-1980s, and has been the lower of the two since. In 2003, the last year for which national statistics are available, only seven states had lower birth rates than Montana's. None of those states is West of the Mississippi River.

FERTILITY

The fertility rate, calculated as the number of births per 1,000 females of childbearing age (assumed to be ages 15-44, inclusive), is sometimes considered more useful than the birth rate for many analytic purposes because it is specific with regards to sex and age of the "at-risk" population. Montana's fertility rate since 1990 is shown in **Figure 7** for mothers of all ages, mothers between the ages of 15 and 17, and those between the ages of 18 and 19. This graph shows fertility rates for Montana mothers of all races.

Figure 7

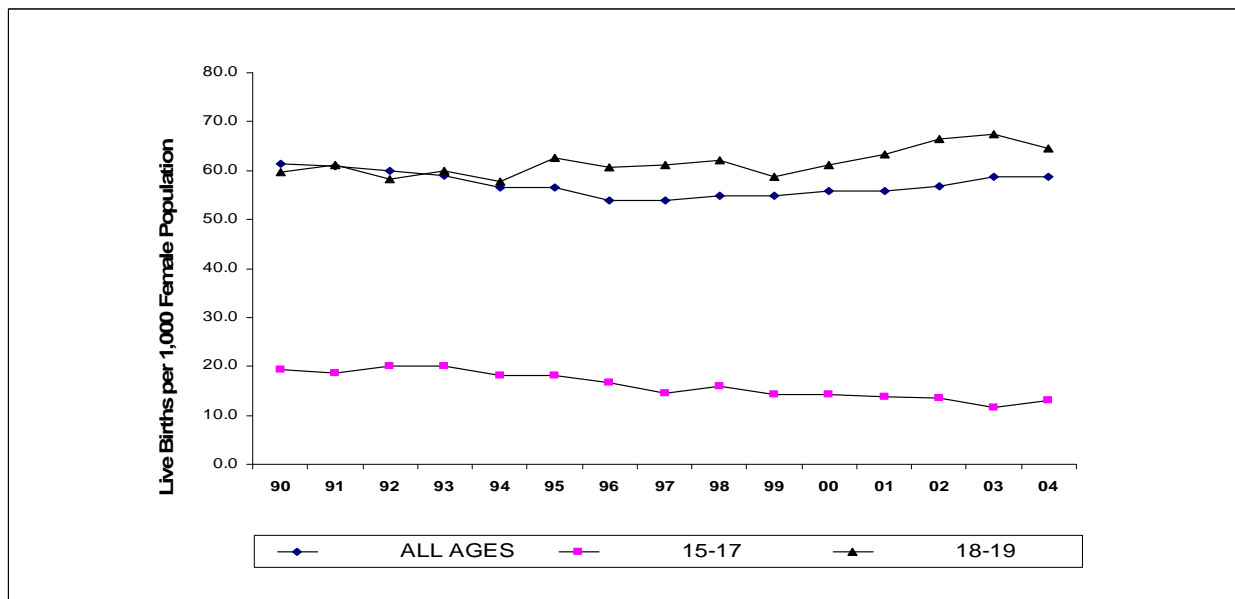
**FERTILITY RATES FOR MOTHERS OF ALL RACES
MONTANA TEENS AND MOTHERS OF ALL AGES, 1990-2004**



The rate of fertility among various racial groups can be quite different from those of the population as a whole, as is illustrated by **Figure 7** above, **Figure 8** below, and **Figure 9** on the next page. Examination of the respective rates for whites and Native Americans for the previous several years is revealing.

Figure 8

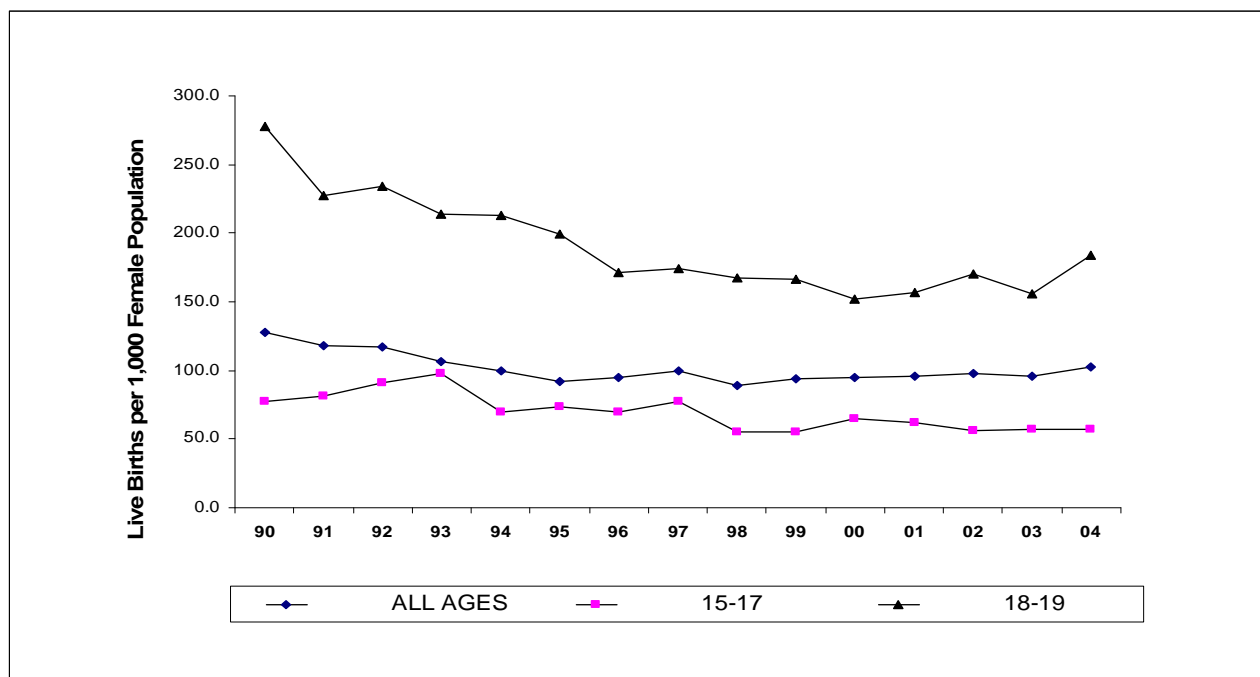
**FERTILITY RATES FOR WHITE MOTHERS
MONTANA TEENS AND MOTHERS OF ALL AGES, 1990-2004**



In 2004, the fertility rate for Montana's white mothers of any age was 58.8. The rate for white mothers between 15 and 17 was 13.1, and the rate for white mothers between the ages of 18 and 19 was 64.5. Fertility rates for Native Americans were substantially higher in all age groups—103.0, 57.3, and 183.6, respectively.

Figure 9

FERTILITY RATES FOR NATIVE AMERICAN MOTHERS MONTANA TEENS AND MOTHERS OF ALL AGES, 1990-2004



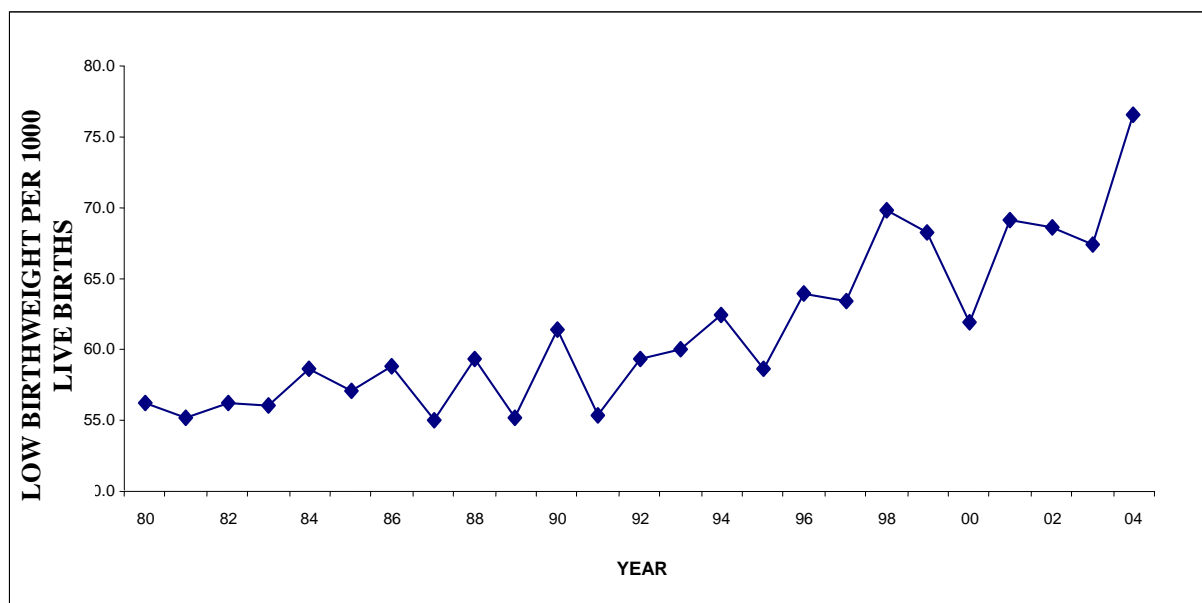
Rates of change for these fertility rates also varied among different groups during this period. The fertility rates for Native Americans of all age groups were higher than those for whites in 2004, but most--with the exception of the 15-17 year old cohort--fell faster during the preceding 14 years than did those for whites. Rates for whites of all ages fell by 4.2%, with a reduction of 32.2% for white teens aged 15-17, and an increase of 7.9% for white teens aged 18-19. Rates for Native Americans of all age groups fell over this period; the rates for all ages, teens aged 15-17, and those aged 18-19 fell by 19.5%, 26.4%, and 33.8%, respectively.

LOW BIRTHWEIGHT

Table B-3 shows the frequency of birth by birthweight category and the mother's county of residence. **Figure 10**, on the following page, shows an increasing rate of low birthweight babies born to Montanans. The rate was 55.2 in 1981 and 76.52 in 2004. While low birthweight has been identified by NCHS as one of the best predictors of infant death, this does not seem to be the case for the Montana infant population as a whole, as the trends of infant and fetal mortality among Montanans in **Figure 16** show. While the low birthweight rate trends upward, rates of infant death are falling for Montana residents.

Figure 10

RATE OF LOW BIRTHWEIGHT BIRTHS MONTANA RESIDENTS, 1981-2004



MOTHER'S AGE, RACE, AND MARITAL STATUS

Those giving birth in 2004 were mostly married white women between the ages of 20 and 35 years. **Table S-8** shows the frequency and percent distribution of births to Montana residents by the mother's age and county of residence. **Table S-3** shows the frequency of births by the mother's race and county of residence of the mother. Any of the races shown may include women of Hispanic origin.

Figure 11

PERCENT OF BIRTHS TO UNMARRIED MOTHERS MONTANA AND U.S. RESIDENTS, 1981-2004

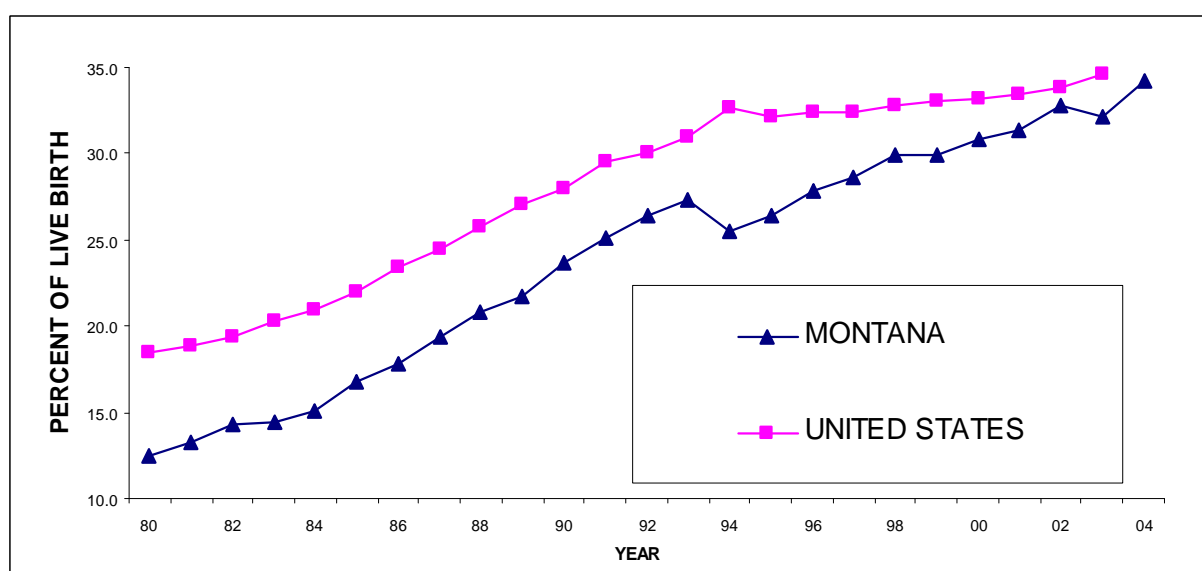


Table B-1 shows the frequency and percent of resident births to unmarried mothers for the years 2000

through 2004. **Table S-7** shows the frequency of birth by marital status of the mother for each of Montana's counties in 2004. **Figure 11**, on the previous page, shows the trend in those births to unmarried women for Montana and the United States since 1981. Births to unmarried women represented 13.3% of Montana's resident births in 1981, 23.7% in 1990, 30.8% in 2000, and 34.2% in 2004.

By comparison, unmarried women in the U.S. accounted for 18.9% of the resident births in 1981, 28.0% in 1990, 33.2% in 2000, and 34.6% in 2003. The Montana proportion of births to unmarried mothers has been, for more than two decades, somewhat below the U.S. proportion. However, the long-term trend for Montana appears to be converging with the national trend over this period.

METHOD OF DELIVERY

Almost four-fifths of the infants delivered in Montana in the years 1995 through 2004 were delivered vaginally (including those delivered vaginally after the mother had a previous C-section). As **Figure 12** shows, the likelihood of a vaginal delivery decreases steadily with increasing age of the mother. This pattern holds for both whites and Native Americans.

Figure 12

FREQUENCY AND PERCENT DISTRIBUTION OF LIVE BIRTHS BY AGE OF MOTHER AND METHOD OF DELIVERY MONTANA OCCURRENCES, 1995-2004

METHOD OF DELIVERY	ALL AGES	UNDER 15	15-17	18-19	20-24	25-29	30-34	35-39	40-44	45 AND OVER	NOT STATED
ALL METHODS Number	109,882	112	3,984	8,793	30,281	30,515	22,935	10,811	2,320	125	6
Percent	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0
VAGINAL Number	83,680	97	3,421	7,315	24,180	23,288	16,501	7,341	1,453	79	5
Percent	76.2	86.6	85.9	83.2	79.9	76.3	71.9	67.9	62.6	63.2	83.3
VAGINAL AFTER C-SECTION Number	2,962	-	3	68	549	918	867	464	90	3	-
Percent	2.7	0.0	0.1	0.8	1.8	3.0	3.8	4.3	3.9	2.4	0.0
PRIMARY C-SECTION Number	14,070	14	544	1,219	3,754	3,671	2,889	1,544	409	26	-
Percent	12.8	12.5	13.7	13.9	12.4	12.0	12.6	14.3	17.6	20.8	0.0
REPEAT C-SECTION Number	9,142	1	14	188	1,793	2,633	2,671	1,459	366	17	-
Percent	8.3	0.9	0.4	2.1	5.9	8.6	11.6	13.5	15.8	13.6	0.0
NOT STATED Number	28	-	2	3	5	5	7	3	2	-	1
Percent	0.0	0.0	0.1	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.1	0.0	16.7